

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing the likelihood and severity of autoimmune disease in a patient, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a level of antibodies against a plurality of different ~~an~~ autoantigen antigens for autoimmune disease and/or a corresponding recombinant ~~autoantigen~~ antigens or synthetic ~~peptide~~ peptides in a sample from said patient; and

b) comparing the level of antibodies determined in step a) with normal levels of said antibodies, wherein

normal levels of each of said plurality of autoantigen antibodies for autoimmune disease indicate optimal conditions; and

higher than normal levels of any of said plurality of autoantigen antibodies for autoimmune disease indicate ongoing pathology or prediction of early pathogenic reaction for autoimmune disease.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoantigen for autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of lupus peptides, arthritis peptides, platelet glycoprotein, and immune complexes.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining the level of antibodies in steps a) and b) is accomplished using an immunoassay.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the immunoassay is an ELISA test.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from saliva.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the measured antibodies are IgA.

7. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the measured antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from serum.

8. (New) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the measured antibodies are selected from the group consisting of IgM, IgG, and IgA.

9. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is lupus or arthritis.

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10. (New) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the autoimmune disease is lupus and wherein the antibodies bind to SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6.

11. (New) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the autoimmune disease is arthritis and wherein the antibodies bind to SEQ ID NO:7.